

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action of September 4, 2007, claims 1 and 2 have been amended.

The present invention defined in claim 1 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art by the following reasons.

The constituent elements of the surveillance camera apparatus defined in currently amended claim 1 are as follows:

- (a) a housing assembly having a slanted plate portion with an inner surface; and
- (b) a camera assembly accommodated in the housing assembly, the slanted plate portion defining an opening therein, the opening having a central axis thereof, the opening having an imaginary inner surface flush with the inner surface of the slanted plate portion, and the imaginary inner surface of the opening having the shape of a circle,

the camera assembly includes:

- (b1) a stationary member;
- (b2) a pan shaft having a pan axis thereof, the pan shaft being supported by the stationary member to be revolvable around the pan axis;
- (b3) a retaining member integrally formed with the pan shaft;
- (b4) a tilt shaft having a tilt axis thereof, the tilt shaft being retained by the retaining member to be revolvable around the tilt axis under the state that the tilt axis of the tilt shaft is in perpendicular relationship with the pan axis of the pan shaft;
- (b5) an imaging unit for taking an image of a specific object through the opening of the slanted plate portion, the imaging unit having a light axis thereof, the imaging unit being integrally supported by the tilt shaft under the state that the light axis of the imaging unit is in perpendicular relationship with the tilt axis of the tilt shaft;
- (b6) a pan motor for having the pan shaft driven around the pan axis; and
- (b7) a controlling unit for changing an upper-limiting pan value in response to an inclination angle of the opening and a direction of the imaging unit while controlling the pan motor to allow the imaging unit to be pivotally moved around the pan axis of the pan shaft within the changed upper-limiting pan value.

The advantageous effects of the surveillance camera apparatus defined in currently amended claim 1 are as follows:

- (i) The surveillance camera apparatus can change the upper-limiting pan value in response to the inclination angle of the opening and the direction of the imaging unit.

(ii) The surveillance camera apparatus can control the pan motor to allow the imaging unit to be pivotally moved around the pan axis of the pan shaft within the changed upper-limiting pan value, and prevent the imaging unit from being moved beyond the changed upper-limiting pan value.

(iii) The surveillance camera apparatus can allow the imaging unit to be moved around the pan axis of the pan shaft in consideration of a dead angle depending on the shape of the opening.

In claim 2, the surveillance camera apparatus can change the upper-limiting tilt value in response to the inclination angle of the opening and the direction of the imaging unit. The surveillance camera apparatus can control the tilt motor to allow the imaging unit to be pivotally moved around the tilt axis of the tilt shaft within the changed upper-limiting tilt value, and prevent the imaging unit from being moved beyond the changed upper-limiting tilt value. The surveillance camera apparatus can allow the imaging unit to be moved around the tilt axis of the tilt shaft in consideration of a dead angle depending on the shape of the opening.

From the element (b7) of currently amended claim 1, it will be understood that the surveillance camera apparatus comprises a controlling unit for changing an upper-limiting pan value in response to an inclination angle of the opening and a direction of the imaging unit while controlling the pan motor to allow the imaging unit to be pivotally moved around the pan axis of the pan shaft within the changed upper-limiting pan value.

On the other hand, the applicant's admitted prior art comprises a housing assembly and a camera assembly accommodated in the housing assembly. The camera assembly includes a controlling unit which includes pan motor controlling means for controlling pan motor driving means to ensure that the imaging unit is moved within a predetermined upper-limiting pan value

" Θ pmax" (see FIG. 14), i.e., a constant value. However, the applicant's admitted prior art cannot change the predetermined upper-limiting pan value in response to the inclination angle of the opening and the direction of the imaging unit when the imaging unit is angularly moved around the pan axis of the pan shaft, cannot allow the imaging unit to be pivotally moved around the pan axis of the pan shaft within the changed upper-limiting pan value, cannot prevent the imaging unit from being moved beyond the changed upper-limiting pan value, and cannot detect whether or not the direction of the imaging unit is in a shaded area (see FIG. 14), i.e., dead angle when the imaging unit is angularly moved around the pan axis of the pan shaft.

The surveillance camera apparatus defined in currently amended claim 1 is completely different in construction and advantageous effect from the applicant's admitted prior art.

It will therefore be appreciated from the foregoing description that the surveillance

camera apparatus defined in currently amended claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the applicant's admitted prior art.

Claim 2 depends from currently amended claim 1 which is believed to be patentably distinguishable over the applicant's admitted prior art as will be understood from the previously mentioned reasons. It is, therefore, believed that claim 2 is patentably distinguishable over the applicant's admitted prior art based on the same reasons as above.

Claims 4, 6, and 7 depend from currently amended claim 1. Claims 3 and 23 depend from claim 2. Claims 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, 19, and 20 depend from claim 3. Claim 5 depend from claim 4. Claim 8 depends from claim 7. Claims 12 and 14 depend from claim 10. Claim 13 depends from claim 9. Claim 21 depends from claim 13. Claim 22 depends from claim 14. Claims 24, 25, 26, and 27 depend from claim 23. It is, therefore, believed that claim 3-8, 17-20, 23-27 are patentably distinguishable over the applicant's admitted prior art based on the same reasons as above.

The Examiner has stated that claims 15 and 16 contain allowable subject matter.


In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is thus in condition for allowance.

If any fees are required by this communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, Order No. 35846.

Respectfully submitted,

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